Steps for Securing a nuclear weapons free World

992. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following India's induction in the UN Security Council, Government have taken any further steps to secure a nuclear weapons-free world as enunciated by the former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the world body thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) This question has not so far figured on the agenda of the Security Council. However, the Action Plan for ushering in a nuclear-weapon-free-world has been pursued in the UN General Assembly, the UN Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. Considerable interest has been evinced by the members of these UN fora in this proposal.

Setting up of an Electronic Switching System Factory at Bhubaneswar

993. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had a proposal to set up an electronic switching system factory for the eastern region at Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the steps taken to set up that factory; and

(c) whether it is likely to be set up during 1991-92?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Establishment of Experts Council on Ecology in the Country

994. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish Experts Council on Ecology in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Growing the area under the Forest Land

995. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA.
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under the Forest Land is growing as per the programme marked out by Government;

(b) whether Government are not able to stop large scale illegal cutting of jungles going on throughout the country by the nexus of contractors, officials and politicians; whether any effective check has been put thereon; and

(c) what is the estimated jungle cutting going on in the country per annum?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) The area under the Forest is not growing as per the National Forest Policy, (1988).

(b) The State Government has been able to stop large scale illicit felling of trees by joint patrolling of armed police force and forest personnel in vulnerable areas.

(c) Regulated felling in the forest as per the approved working plans are carritd out in the States/UTs.

Closing of all the existing Zoos in the country

996. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close all the existing zoos in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Indians in Iraq and Saudi Arabia

997. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indians in Iraq and Saudi Arabia;

(b) the number of those who have decided to return back to India and have approached the Indian Missions in these countries; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to bring such Indians safely to the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There are 6,12,000 in Saudi Arabia and about 130 in Iraq.

(b) At the beginning of the Gulf war on 17-2-1991, about 2,000 of our nationals were in Iraq and practically all of them approached the mission for assistance. In Saudi Arabia, the number comes to 117.

(c) Indian missions abroad have rendered all necessary assistance in this regard as a result of which all except 130 Indian nationals in Iraq and 6 of the 117 from Saudi Arabia (as of 20-2-1991) have since returned safely to the country.

Printing of Postal Stamps

998. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government have decided to give the work of printing postal stamps to private parties instead of the Government of India Press; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) and (b) No decision has been taken so far to give the work of printing postage stamps to private printers. There is, however, a proposal of having some stamps printed through other security printers in view of the existing limitations of the Government of India Security Press. Such printing is being considered in addition to and not instead of the printing by the Government Security Press.

Postponement of Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers Meeting

999. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers' meeting on the Gulf War which was scheduled